

GEGENWART UND ZUKUNFT DER ANTISEPTIK UND IHR VERHAELTNISS ZUR BAKTERIOLOGIE. VON DR. J. NEUDOERFER, *Klinische Zeit.* und Streitfragen, herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. Joh. Schnitzler. 1888. Wien. Wilh. Braumüller. New York, G. E. Stechert.

PRESENT AND FUTURE OF ANTISEPSIS AND THEIR RELATION TO BACTERIOLOGY.

The author of this pamphlet (42 pages) first gives a general review of the present theories and methods of antiseptic practice in surgery, in which he gives prominence to several of the newer antiseptic substances such as antipyrin, chinolin, sozo-iodol, kreolin, etc.

Then, proceeding to discuss the action of antiseptics in preventing sepsis, he theoretically constructs a number of interesting hypotheses as to the requirements and probable future of antiseptics.

Believing inflammation due to some "irritation" of the nervous system, he looks to the bacteria as exerting such an influence upon the sympathetic and trophic nerves. Iodoform, in his opinion, has an antiseptic action, because it renders sympathetic nerve-branches insensible to irritations of this kind.

Finally he points out that all our future knowledge and understanding of the nature of the vital principles of life, disease and death, must be the outgrowth of a more minute study of the physiology and pathology of the blood corpuscles. He quotes Mosso (who believes the leucocytes to be changed red corpuscles) and Heitzmann (who can diagnose the personal constitution from the appearance of the corpuscles), to show how far superior the study of the blood is to the study of bacteriology. Different irritants (among which bacteria play but a small part) cause different changes in the blood-corpuscles—and this gives rise to the various physiological phenomena, which we in vain endeavor to comprehend before we have mastered the subject of the blood-corpuscle.

The theories advanced are not substantiated by any original experimental work of the author.

ALLGEMEINE CHIRURGISCHE SEMIOTIK UND DIAGNOSTIK. Von Dr. OSCAR WITZEL. 1888. Bonn, Max Cohen & Sohn. New York, G. E. Stechert.

GENERAL SURGICAL SYMPTOMATOLOGY AND DIAGNOSIS.

This book (173 pages) contains the symptoms and differential diag-

nosis of the most frequent surgical affections, and directions for making the necessary examinations in these cases.

The contents of the book are divided as follows: (1). Injuries and their sequelæ. (2). Inflammation and its sequelæ. (3). Tumors, (4). General method of examination.

No special forms of injuries are described; the treatment of the subjects is general throughout. Thus only the general symptomatology of fractures is given, no special forms being mentioned.

The author has made the descriptions of the subjects treated as short and concise as possible, and by limiting himself to the symptoms and diagnosis of the various affections, has succeeded in disposing of them in a very small space.

No fault can be found with the teachings presented; they are the accepted maxims of the present day.

The book is the outcome of the author's lectures during a five years' experience in instruction to students at the University of Bonn; it is inscribed to Prof. Tredelenburg, whose student the author was, and reference is made in the preface to his teachers, Bardeleben and v. Langenbeck.

The intention of the author was to offer the practitioner a useful guide in the examination and appreciation of surgical cases; but whether the book will be as great a favorite with practitioners (who look for something more by way of information in a given case) as with students and instructors, remains to be seen.

ZUR ERINNERUNG AN BERNHARD VON LANGENBECK. Rede gehalten von ERNST VON BERGMANN am 3. April. 1888. Berlin. Aug. Hirschwald. New York, G. E. Stechert.

#### MEMORIAL ORATION UPON B. VON LANGENBECK.

The above oration was delivered before the German Surgical Society and the Berlin Medical Society, to both of which v. Langenbeck was president for many years. It now appears in pamphlet form, 95 pages including the numerous notes.

The author compares the honored surgeon with Emperor William; while the latter was uniting Germany and raising it to an empire, v. Langenbeck was doing something similar for German surgery.

With some details of the life of v. Langenbeck, the author gives valuable hints of the history of German surgery. He dwells upon three special features of v. Langenbeck's life-work. (1.) The fact